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Social development

Letter dated 10 July 1997 from the Secretary of State for Youth of Portugal addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a note on possible elements of the draft Lisbon declaration on youth policies and programmes to be adopted at the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (see annex), which is being convened by the Government of Portugal in cooperation with the United Nations at Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998 pursuant to paragraph 123 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 50/81 on the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

The note was prepared by the Government of Portugal in cooperation with the United Nations to serve as a basis for informal consultations among Member States on this subject during the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council.

The Government of Portugal notes that it took five years of negotiations (1990-1995) in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development for all Member States to agree on the text of what has become the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

The Government of Portugal is convinced that the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth should not reopen the debate on the text already adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1995, but rather should focus discussion among the governmental

ministers responsible for youth first on a review and appraisal of how Governments, in cooperation with youth and youth-related organizations, have implemented the provisions of the Programme of Action at national, regional and local community levels and, second, on new proposals on how Governments can better implement the Programme of Action in cooperation with youth and youth-related organizations in more focused, intersectoral ways at national, regional and local levels.

In other words, the Conference is not meant to repeat in any way the negotiations of 1990-1995 but should build on the consensus established by the General Assembly when it adopted the Programme of Action for Youth.

The real innovations of the Conference will be the direct involvement of the governmental ministers most concerned in this global process for the first time, relating the discussions at the Conference to the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and local community levels in each State Member of the United Nations.

The value to be added by the Conference will be contained in the Lisbon declaration on youth policies and programmes to be adopted by the Conference and in the commitments for action made during this process by the concerned ministers of all States Members of the United Nations and the representatives of both youth and youth-serving non-governmental organizations and youth-related organizations and agencies of the United Nations system as well as representatives of the regional intergovernmental organizations that convene youth minister meetings in all five regions of the United Nations.

The emphasis will be on the practical measures that can be taken to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond more effectively at national, regional and local levels.

I would be grateful if you would have the note annexed hereto circulated as an official document of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997 under agenda item 7 (c), to be considered in particular in connection with the discussion on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, including a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (see draft resolution IV contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fifth session (E/1997/26), the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with the Government of Portugal in holding the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (E/1997/103) and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/52/60 - E/1997/6)).

(Signed) António José MARTINS SEGURO
Secretary of State for Youth

Annex

# POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT LISBON DECLARATION ON YOUTH POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO BE ADOPTED AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUTH TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR YOUTH TO THE YEAR 2000 AND BEYOND THROUGH MORE FOCUSED AND INTERSECTORAL MEASURES AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY LEVELS

## Purposes and objectives of the draft Lisbon declaration on youth policies and programmes

The purposes and objectives of the draft Lisbon declaration on youth policies and programmes are derived from mandates of the General Assembly (resolution 50/81, paragraphs 123 and 124) and the Economic and Social Council (see draft resolution IV recommended by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-fifth session for adoption by the Council) concerning the need for the Conference to provide an effective forum for a focused global dialogue on youth-related issues and a specific means to review, appraise and further promote the implementation of the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

The expected outcome of the Conference is a Lisbon declaration on youth policies and programmes by ministers responsible for youth to further promote the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond through more focused and specific intersectoral measures at national, regional and local community levels.

## Possible elements of the draft Lisbon declaration on youth policies and programmes

The possible elements are drawn from the first review and appraisal undertaken by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/52/60 - E/1997/6). They are presented below in a list to provide a basis for informal consultations among Member States at the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council.

In the absence of a provisional agenda for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, the elements listed below are only preliminary suggestions for review by Member States which are to be elaborated in 1997-1998. The eventual conclusions of the Conference should be based on an exchange of information about what each Member State is doing with regard to the following matters drawn from the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, as well as with regard to the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth endorsed by the General Assembly for International Youth Year in 1985 and the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and

Understanding between Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in 1965. The following are suggested as possible elements for inclusion in the draft declaration:

1. National youth policies to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

2. Participation, development and peace: the three themes of International Youth Year (1985) and how they relate to the implementation of the Programme of Action for Youth.

3. Social affairs: education, employment, health and drugs: major priority issues for action in the Programme of Action for Youth.

4. Recommendations at the regional and international levels:

4.1 Towards an overall system of coordination and cooperation between the regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth, the future sessions of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the United Nations to further review, appraise and promote the Programme of Action for Youth.

4.2 Strengthening the cooperation between the United Nations regional commissions and the regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth for the preparation and follow-up of the recommendations of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth.

4.3 Future sessions of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and follow-up proposals regarding international action to implement the Programme of Action for Youth, including the United Nations Declaration of Intent on Youth: Problems and Potentials:

- International standards, monitoring mechanisms and measures to promote the rights of youth;

- Data collection and dissemination of information on youth;

- Research and policy studies on youth;

- Planning and coordination on youth;

- Technical cooperation: training and advisory services on youth;

- Outreach and partnerships with both non-governmental youth organizations and the private sector to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond more effectively.

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